

SS GENERAL GETS 15-YEAR SENTENCE

Wolff Receives Hard Labor
for Role in Killing Jews

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Special to The New York Times

DONN, Sept. 30 — Karl Fred erick Wolff, the highest-ranking Nazi officer yet to be tried by a West German court, was convicted today on a charge that he had had a role in the slaughter of Jews. He was sentenced to 15 years at hard labor.

Wolff, a former S. or Elite Guard, major general and the wartime liaison man between Heinrich Himmler and Hitler, was found by a Munich court to have contributed to the murder of 300,000 Jews during World War II.

Originally accused of complicity in the sayings, Wolff was found guilty on a lesser charge of having helped to provide railroad cars that carried the 300,000 Jews to Nazi extermination camps.

The Munich prosecutor had asked for life imprisonment, the severest penalty possible under West German law.

Tight security measures were taken at the court today following an anonymous telephone call from someone speaking broken German who said that an attempt would be made to free Wolff if he were convicted.

Extra police were detailed to guard the white-haired ex-Nazi

and a new route was taken to and from the courthouse.

Throughout the trial, which began July 13, the 64-year-old defendant insisted that he was ignorant of the Nazi program to exterminate the Jews.

However, the president of the Munich court said yesterday that Wolff, who was on intimate terms with both Hitler and Himmler, "was well aware of their murder plans."

Wolff had been kept under arrest by the Allied authorities for about four years after World War II. However, because of his role in helping to arrange the surrender of German troops in northern Italy in 1945, he escaped prosecution at the Nuremberg war crimes trials of the top Nazi leaders.

While serving as chief SS officer in Italy, he participated in clandestine meetings with Allen W. Dulles and other Allied agents to help arrange an early surrender of German troops. He also was said to have entered negotiations with Pope Pius XII.

During his trial Wolff insisted that he had helped save the lives of thousands of Allied

troops through these negotiations. He also attempted to convince the court that his cooperation with the Allies showed he was not deeply committed to the Nazi cause.

The court rejected this contention. The court president said that in his judgment Wolff was a deep believer in the Nazi ideology and that he had accepted plans for the obliteration of the Jews "under the idea that he had to fulfill a historic task, setting back all quails of conscience."

Wolff's defense counsel announced that he would appeal the verdict on the ground that there was "no actual evidence" of the former SS general's guilt.

The two-and-one-half years Wolff spent in custody while awaiting trial will be deducted from the 15-year sentence.

He previously was sentenced to a four-year prison term in 1949 by a de-Nazification tribunal in Hamburg. However, the sentence was suspended because of his confinement by the Allies.

Wolff, who fought with a Hessian guards regiment in World War I and joined the SS in the early 1930's, was living as a businessman in West Germany before his latest arrest.

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